United Nations FCCC/SBI/2018/20

Framework Convention on Climate Change

Distr.: General
19 October 2018

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Implementation
Forty-ninth session
Katowice, 2–8 December 2018

Item 4(b) of the provisional agenda
Reporting from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention
Work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention

Report by the secretariat

Summary

This report summarizes the progress of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) in implementing its workplan for 2018. It covers the proceedings and outcomes of the two meetings of the CGE held in 2018, at which the CGE discussed its key areas of work for 2018, considered progress in implementing its workplan for 2018 and assessed its major achievements and lessons learned in implementing its work programme for 2014–2018.

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I. Introduction

A. Mandate

1. The Conference of the Parties (COP), by decision 19/CP.19, decided to continue the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) for a period of five years, from 2014 to 2018.

2. COP 19 requested the CGE to submit a progress report on its work annually to the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) for consideration at the sessions of the SBI held in conjunction with the sessions of the COP.[1]

3. COP 19 also requested the secretariat to facilitate the work of the CGE by organizing its meetings and workshops and compiling reports thereon for consideration by the SBI.[2]

B. Scope

4. This report provides an overview of the implementation by the CGE of its 2018 workplan, covers the proceedings of its 20th and 21st meetings and takes stock of the implementation of its work programme for 2014–2018, including key achievements, lessons learned and challenges encountered.

5. Two other reports capturing the outcomes of key activities of the CGE undertaken in 2018 have also been prepared for consideration at SBI 49:

(a) A report on the regional hands-on training workshops on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in national communications (NCs) (see paras. 11 and 12 below);[3]

(b) A report on the regional hands-on training workshop on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in NCs and biennial update reports (BURs) for the Latin American and Caribbean region (see paras. 13 and 14 below).[4]

C. Possible action by the Subsidiary Body for Implementation

6. The SBI, having considered this report and the two reports referred to in paragraph 5 above, is invited to take note of the progress of the CGE in implementing its work programme for 2014–2018, and to provide further guidance, as appropriate, to the CGE.

7. Further, the SBI may wish to take into account the information contained in this report in considering the review of the term and mandate, including the terms of reference, of the CGE with a view to recommending a draft decision thereon for consideration and adoption at COP 24.

II. Proceedings of the 20th and 21st meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts

8. The 20th meeting of the CGE was held in Bonn, Germany, on 5 and 6 February 2018. Twenty-one members participated in the meeting,[5] as well as an observer from

[1] Decision 19/CP.19, paragraph 7.
[2] Decision 19/CP.19, paragraph 9(a).
[3] FCCC/SBI/2018/21.
[4] FCCC/SBI/2018/14.
[5] Members from Algeria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia (remote participation), the Congo, Cuba, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Japan, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, the Sudan and the United States of America (remote participation), and three experts representing international organizations (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, United Nations

Azerbaijan representing Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (non-Annex I Parties) from the Eastern European region, who was invited in accordance with the conclusions of COP 19.[6] Mr. Thiago de Araujo Mendes (Brazil) was elected as the Chair of the CGE and Mr. Gervais Ludovic Itsoua Madzous (Congo) as the Rapporteur, both for a term of one year. The CGE reviewed, revised and finalized its workplan for 2018.[7]

9. The 21st meeting of the CGE was held in Asunción, Paraguay, on 21 and 22 September 2018. Sixteen members participated in the meeting.[8] The CGE took stock of progress in implementing its workplan for 2018. It also took stock of the key activities implemented in 2014–2018 with a view to identifying key achievements, lessons learned and constraints in implementing its work programme.

10. The progress of the CGE in implementing its activities planned for 2018 is described in detail in chapter III below, including operational details of some of the key activities. Chapter IV below contains an overview of activities implemented and main achievements under the work programme of the CGE for 2014–2018.

III. Progress of the Consultative Group of Experts in implementing its workplan for 2018

A. Technical advice and support for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports

1. Regional hands-on training workshops on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in national communications

11. The CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, conducted in 2018 three regional hand-on training workshops on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in NCs:[9]

(a) For the African region, held in Lomé, Togo, from 23 to 26 July;

(b) For the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Asunción from 17 to 20 September;

(c) For the Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 8 to 11 October.

12. The objectives of the workshops were:

(a) To enhance the technical knowledge of national experts from developing countries on the science, methods and tools necessary to conduct vulnerability and adaptation assessment and translate the results into adaptation actions;

(b) To further their understanding of what and how to prepare and report in NCs information on vulnerability and adaptation assessment and the identification and implementation of adaptation actions;

(c) To serve as a platform for exchanging views, lessons learned and experience, and networking.

Development Programme and United Nations Environment Programme).

[6] FCCC/CP/2013/10, paragraph 131.

[7] Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/CGE_workplan_2018.pdf.

[8] Members from Brazil, Canada (remote participation), China, the Congo, Cuba, the European Union (remote participation), Germany, India, Japan, Kenya (remote participation), Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa and Uruguay, and two experts representing international organizations (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and United Nations Environment Programme).

[9] See document FCCC/SBI/2018/21 for the detailed report on the workshops.

2. Regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in national communications and biennial update reports

13. At its 20th meeting the CGE noted that, owing to insufficient financial resources, the regional hands-on training workshop on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in NCs and BURs for the Latin American and Caribbean region had not been held in 2017. The CGE also noted that there were sufficient funds available in 2018 to conduct the workshop. Subsequently, the workshop was held, with the assistance of the secretariat, in Panama City, Panama, from 24 to 27 July 2018.[10]

14. The objectives of the workshop were:

(a) To enhance the capacity of national experts in using the "Guidelines for the preparation of national communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention" (hereinafter referred to as the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties) and the "UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention" to facilitate their preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in their countries' NCs and BURs;

(b) To serve as a platform for exchanging views, lessons learned and experience relating to the process and preparation of NCs and BURs, as appropriate.

3. Regional hands-on training workshops on the building of sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems and the use of the *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories*

15. At its 21st meeting the CGE noted its contribution of resource persons to two regional hands-on training workshops on the building of sustainable national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory management systems and the use of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* (hereinafter referred to as the 2006 IPCC Guidelines)[11]:

(a) The workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 21 to 25 May 2018;

(b) The workshop for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions, held in Beijing, China, from 20 to 24 August 2018.

16. The workshops were organized by the secretariat in collaboration with the IPCC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases. The CGE made several presentations on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

17. The participants expressed their appreciation to the secretariat for organizing the workshops. Their level of satisfaction with the content and organization was high. They acknowledged the usefulness of the training and requested additional hands-on training opportunities, including in the form of e-courses.

18. The materials used for the workshops will be translated into Portuguese with the support of the Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties (GSP).

4. Webinars

19. The CGE continued to organize webinars to reach a broad audience of practitioners with the aim of providing a platform for them to focus on learning about specific methods or tools, supplementing the level of technical detail covered in the hands-on training workshops across all substantive themes covered in NCs and BURs, namely GHG inventories, mitigation, vulnerability and adaptation, and support.

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[10] See document FCCC/SBI/2018/14 for the detailed report on the workshop.

[11] Such a workshop was also held for the African region in Lusaka, Zambia, from 4 to 8 June 2018; no resource person from the CGE attended it.

20. The CGE webinar series in 2018 focused on:

(a) How at the national level the current measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) arrangements can be better implemented under the Convention;

(b) How countries can better showcase their climate mitigation and adaptation actions in their NCs and BURs;

(c) Methodologies used and tools available for mitigation assessment, adaptation and vulnerability assessment, and national GHG inventories;

(d) Lessons learned and good practices from developing countries in preparing their NCs and BURs.

21. As at September 2018 the CGE had conducted seven thematic webinars of 45 minutes each in English. The presentations from and recordings[12] of each of the webinars are available via the CGE website.[13] Some of the materials were made available in Spanish or French. A total of 352 experts participated in the webinars. As part of its outreach activities, the CGE, with the support of the secretariat, has periodically reported on the availability of the materials to stakeholders.

22. The CGE collaborated with external experts and international organizations to conduct the webinars (see paras. 50–59 below), which enabled the participants, including national government representatives, researchers and technical specialists, to learn from and engage with the resource persons provided.

B. Support for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

1. Training programme for teams of technical experts

23. COP 19, by decision 20/CP.19, adopted the composition, modalities and procedures of the team of technical experts (TTE) under international consultation and analysis (ICA). It requested the CGE to develop and organize appropriate training programmes for nominated technical experts, taking into account annexes III and IV to decision 2/CP.17, based on the most up-to-date training materials of the CGE.[14] As mandated and as per its workplan, the CGE developed a training programme in 2014–2015.

24. The CGE training programme for experts undertaking the technical analysis of BURs was rolled out in April 2015 and converted to a web-based e-course training programme[15] in June 2015. Since then the programme has been offered to experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts by Parties included in Annex I to the Convention (Annex I Parties) and non-Annex I Parties. The seventh and eighth rounds of the training programme were offered in 2018. In the seventh round, 73 experts (40 from non-Annex I Parties and 33 from Annex I Parties) passed one or more exams.[16]

25. As agreed at its 20th meeting, the CGE updated the four modules in cluster 1, "Provisions on reporting information in BURs and conducting technical analysis of BURs under the ICA process", of the TTE training materials, mainly to incorporate the experience, lessons learned and observations from the implementation of the ICA process thus far. Module 1 of the updated materials was used for the eighth round of the training programme; the remaining modules will be used for subsequent rounds.

[12] Available at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJlvsGJAR8Nsty1ZuBf_cQg.

[13] https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-on-national-communications-from-parties-not-included-in-annex-i-to-the/cge-webinar-series.

[14] Decision 20/CP.19, paragraphs 1 and 4.

[15] https://unfccc.int/process/transparency-and-reporting/reporting-and-review-under-convention/training-review-experts.

[16] The eighth round of the training programme was launched on 3 September 2018, with the assessment period to be held from 16 to 19 October 2018.

2. Periodic advice on the composition of teams of technical experts

26. Consistently with its mandate, the CGE provides periodic advice to the secretariat on selecting TTE members. The secretariat is mandated to report to the CGE on the composition of TTEs on a semi-annual basis.[17]

27. As at June 2018 the secretariat had organized 10 rounds of the technical analysis of BURs, covering 52 BURs from 42 non-Annex I Parties, including 13 second BURs. A total of 138 experts from both Annex I and non-Annex-I Parties, including current and former CGE members, participated in the technical analysis as members of TTEs.

28. The TTEs were composed following the selection criteria defined in the annex to decision 20/CP.19; the secretariat also considered advice from the CGE in composing the TTEs.

29. At its 21st meeting the CGE noted that, while there are challenges in securing experts for the BUR analyses, due to the unpredictability of BUR submissions, the secretariat has managed to compose the TTEs thus far for the technical analyses of submitted BURs. However, the CGE highlighted that should the submissions of the BURs increase significantly, this challenge will be amplified.

3. Survey of national experts from Parties that had participated in the technical analysis of biennial update reports

30. At its 20th meeting the CGE agreed to conduct a survey to seek feedback from national focal points and national experts from 39 non-Annex I Parties that had participated in the technical analysis of BURs with a view to understanding opportunities to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the process defined in decision 20/CP.19.

31. At its 21st meeting the CGE took note of the report on the survey.

32. The feedback from Parties on the use of the thematic checklist as a tool for the technical analysis process was overwhelmingly positive. It clearly outlines the reporting provisions that were negotiated and agreed upon by Parties, and provides a structure that enables the Parties to understand how the TTE uses the reporting provisions as the basis for conducting a technical analysis. Some members of the CGE acknowledged the need to further enhance the thematic checklist by clarifying the nature of the reporting provisions, in terms of whether they are "shall", should", or "encouraged".

C. Online training resources

1. E-learning courses

33. The e-learning courses that were developed and released on the UNFCCC Learning Management System are fully operational.[18] They cover vulnerability and adaptation assessment, mitigation assessment and national GHG inventories.

34. Currently the e-learning courses are only available in English. The CGE noted the value of making the online training courses available in other United Nations languages.

35. As at 20 August 2018, 684 participants had registered for the e-learning courses.

36. The availability of the e-learning courses has been shared with a wide audience through webinar announcements and also through outreach efforts of the secretariat on behalf of the CGE.

2. Interactive online platform

37. The long-term strategy of the CGE formulated in 2014 included enhancing interaction between CGE members and their constituencies as part of its communication

[17] Decision 20/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2.

[18] Available at https://climate.csod.com/client/climate/default.aspx.

and outreach efforts. Accordingly, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, created a web-based online platform called the e-Network.[19]

38. The e-Network allows users to access relevant information on the preparation of NCs and BURs, search a database of experts, pose questions to the CGE and participate in online discussion forums.

39. The e-Network also provides a platform for disseminating discussion questions and answers from CGE webinars.

40. The CGE encourages national experts and other stakeholders involved in the preparation of NCs and BURs to make use of the e-Network.

D. Other activities

1. Technical assessment of submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels

41. As per decision 13/CP.19, annex, paragraph 9, a CGE member participated as an observer in the technical assessment of the submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, held in Bonn from 19 to 23 May 2018.

42. At its 21st meeting, the CGE noted the need to keep a record of its participation in order to ensure that the lessons learned by Parties could contribute to the work of the CGE.

2. Integration of gender considerations into the work of the Consultative Group of Experts

43. At its 20th meeting the CGE noted the gender action plan adopted at COP 23[20] and acknowledged the importance of mainstreaming the gender perspective in its work. As part of its gender mainstreaming activities, in 2018 the CGE:

(a) Encouraged women's participation in its regional hands-on training workshops;

(b) Included consideration of gender mainstreaming in its webinars;

(c) Integrated gender mainstreaming into its training materials and workshops;

(d) Developed case studies on good practices for gender mainstreaming in national reports;[21]

(e) Started maintaining, where available, gender-related statistics of participation in CGE activities (see figure 2).

E. Cooperation and collaboration

44. The CGE notes the importance of participating in the activities of and communicating with other constituted bodies and expert groups. Such participation and communication helps in identifying activities that are cross-cutting in nature and exploring synergies and opportunities for collaborating on their respective activities and/or complementing each other's work, especially related to the capacity-building of non-Annex I Parties in the area of MRV.

1. Constituted bodies

(a) Paris Committee on Capacity-building

45. The CGE participated as an observer in the 2nd meeting of the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB), held in Bonn from 3 to 5 May 2018.[22] The CGE made an

[19] http://www4.unfccc.int/sites/Enet.

[20] Decision 3/CP.23.

[21] The material will be available by December 2018.

[22] See https://unfccc.int/pccb.

intervention highlighting its interest in the 2018 focus area of the PCCB and indicating that the CGE sees a strong relationship between its work on MRV and the implementation of nationally determined contributions, particularly with respect to the technicalities involved in preparing and tracking nationally determined contributions. The CGE also highlighted that it is ready to engage with the PCCB to explore opportunities for synergy and to complement each other's work, and indicated its readiness to work with the four working groups of the PCCB.

46. The CGE nominated two members as focal points to the PCCB and agreed to continue providing input to the PCCB through the focal points. The CGE also agreed to participate in future activities organized by the PCCB.

(b) Standing Committee on Finance

47. The CGE noted with appreciation the outreach of the Standing Committee on Finance, whereby it shared its workplan with the CGE.

(c) Stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition

48. The COP 23 President and the COP 24 President Designate invited the CGE to submit, by 1 October 2018, concise written input to the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition that will be convened at COP 24.

49. The CGE made a submission for the stocktake on pre-2020 implementation and ambition, which identified how the CGE is supporting non-Annex I Parties on this matter.[23]

2. Intergovernmental organizations

(a) Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties

50. At the 20th and 21st meetings of the CGE, the CGE members from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) provided an update on the progress of implementation of the GSP.

51. The GSP is assisting the CGE in compiling information on existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs, and steps for integrating climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

52. The GSP supported the CGE in developing good practice guidance on integrating gender considerations into NC reporting (see para. 51 above) and translating into Portuguese the CGE training materials on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (see para. 18 above).

53. The GSP has contributed resource persons to CGE webinars, who shared their knowledge on matters related to gender and GHG inventories.

(b) Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

54. The CGE and the IPCC, through the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Working Group II, collaborated on the three regional hands-on training workshops on adaptation (see para. 11 above). Experts from the IPCC Working Group II provided an overview of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) in a dedicated session entitled, "Overview of global landscape of climate change: key results from the work of the IPCC Working Group II."

55. In addition, the CGE and the IPCC collaborated in organizing the regional hands-on training workshops on sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (see para. 15 above).

[23] The submission is available at https://unfccc.int/topics/pre-2020.

(c) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

56. FAO led a session on sectoral vulnerability and adaptation assessment, planning and implementation, with a focus on agriculture, at the three regional hands-on training workshops on adaptation (see para. 11 above). FAO also contributed resource persons to a relevant CGE webinar.

(d) United Nations Development Programme

57. The UNDP National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme led a session at the regional hands-on training workshops on adaptation for the African region (see para. 11 above) on translating sectoral vulnerability and adaptation assessment results into national policies and plans.

(e) World Health Organization

58. The World Health Organization (WHO) led a session at two regional hands-on training workshops on adaptation (see para. 11 above) on sectoral vulnerability and adaptation assessment, planning and implementation, with a focus on human health. It also contributed a resource person to a relevant CGE webinar.

3. International organizations

59. In addition to the intergovernmental organizations listed above, the CGE has also collaborated with a number of other international organizations, primarily engaging their experts as resource persons for its webinars and regional hands-on training workshops, including the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation, Deltares, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the Hungarian National Adaptation Center, the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change and Winrock International.

IV. Stocktake of the implementation of the work programme of the Consultative Group of Experts for 2014–2018

60. This chapter provides an overview of the activities and achievements of the CGE under its work programme for 2014–2018. It includes information on the cooperation and collaboration that the CGE has undertaken with partners to implement its work programme successfully.

A. Technical assistance and support for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports

61. One of the core mandates of the CGE from the COP is to provide technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process and preparation of their NCs and BURs in accordance with the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties contained in the annex to decision 17/CP.8 and the "UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention" contained in annex III to decision 2/CP.17. In response, the CGE has undertaken several activities, which broadly fall into three clusters:

(a) Developing, updating and disseminating training materials and technical tools;

(b) Conducting regional hands-on training workshops and a training programme for TTEs;

(c) Setting up and operationalizing online training resources, such as the e-learning programme, e-Network and webinars.

1. Understanding the capacity-building needs of developing country Parties

62. In accordance with decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(a) and (g), the CGE prepared a technical report[24] in 2014 that included compiled and synthesized information on problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices identified in the process and preparation of NCs and BURs by developing country Parties. With a view to complementing the compiled information with more up-to-date information, the CGE prepared an updated technical report[25] in 2017. The reports have informed the work of the CGE in identifying and providing technical assistance to address the needs of developing country Parties and served as a source of lessons learned and best practices for those Parties.

2. Training materials

63. The CGE has continued to update its training materials[26] in order to incorporate feedback and suggestions from those who have attended training workshops or utilized the training materials, and to reflect the most recent science and any developments in the reporting of developing country Parties under the Convention, thus maintaining relevance and value to the target audience. The CGE has developed and disseminated training materials to facilitate the preparation of national reports and to support training workshops.

64. In 2005 a set of training materials for the preparation of NCs was developed on vulnerability and adaptation assessment, national GHG inventories and mitigation assessment. In 2013 another set of supplementary training materials for the preparation of BURs was developed, on institutional arrangements, mitigation actions and their effects, and constraints and gaps and related financial, technical and capacity-building needs and support received, to address the reporting elements within the scope of BURs. In 2014 the training materials on the preparation of BURs were translated into Arabic, French and Spanish.

65. The CGE updated its existing training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment in 2014–2015. The update took into account the recent developments under the Convention and the latest science, in particular the findings contained in the AR5.

66. The CGE, in collaboration with the IPCC, made available online training materials on the 2006 IPCC Guidelines in 2017. These covered all sectors of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines, namely energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, forestry and other land use, and waste. In collaboration with the GSP the training materials were translated into Portuguese.

67. The CGE updated two training materials on BURs in 2017, one on reporting information on mitigation actions and their effects and the other on reporting information on constraints and gaps, and related financial, technical and capacity-building needs and support received. The updates ensured that the training materials developed in 2013 were aligned with the materials used for the programme, developed in 2015, to train technical experts to undertake the technical analysis of BURs.

3. Training workshops

68. Since 2014 the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat and financial and technical support provided by Parties and international organizations, has organized 15 regional hands-on training workshops, of which 6 focused on the preparation of BURs, 6 on vulnerability and adaptation assessment and 3 on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions. Further, CGE members participated as resource persons in the eight regional hands-on training workshops organized by the secretariat in 2015 (one), 2016 (three), 2017 (two) and 2018 (two), in collaboration with the IPCC, on building

[24] FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.16.

[25] FCCC/SBI/2017/16.

[26] Available at https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-on-national-communications-from-parties-not-included-in-annex-i-to-the/cge-training-materials.

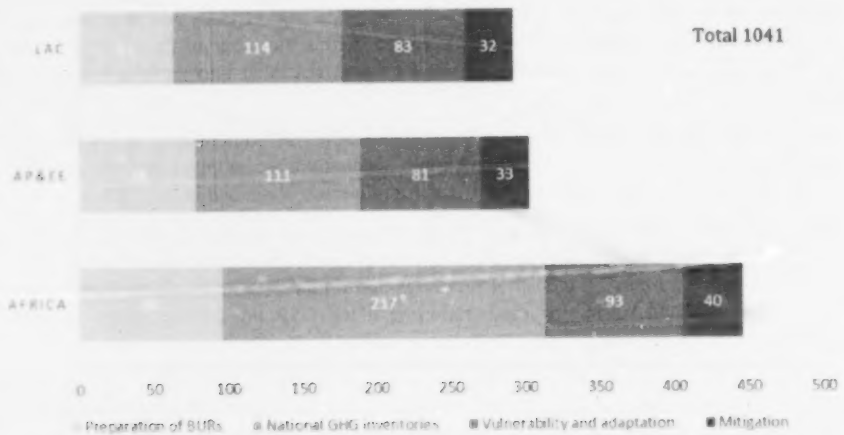
sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines. A total of 1,041 national experts from developing country Parties have been trained through these workshops. Figure 1 shows the number of participants by region and thematic area, while figure 2 shows disaggregated numbers of participants by gender for each region.

69. The workshops provided an opportunity for the participants to share experience and views and to build a network of experts. Furthermore, they served as a platform for generating feedback on the training materials in order to improve them further.

70. According to the post-workshop survey results,[27] most surveyed participants found the quality of the regional hands-on training workshops to be either excellent (56 per cent on average across the 15 regional hands-on training workshops) or good (39 per cent on average), as shown in figure 3. The feedback and lessons learned from the training workshops allowed the CGE to identify a number of areas for enhancing the design and delivery of technical assistance to developing country Parties, including encouraging participants to strengthen their institutional arrangements through the training workshops and ensuring that experience, lessons learned and best practices from developing countries feature prominently in the content of CGE training materials and workshops.[28]

Figure 1

Regional hands-on training workshops in 2014–2018: number of participants by region and thematic area

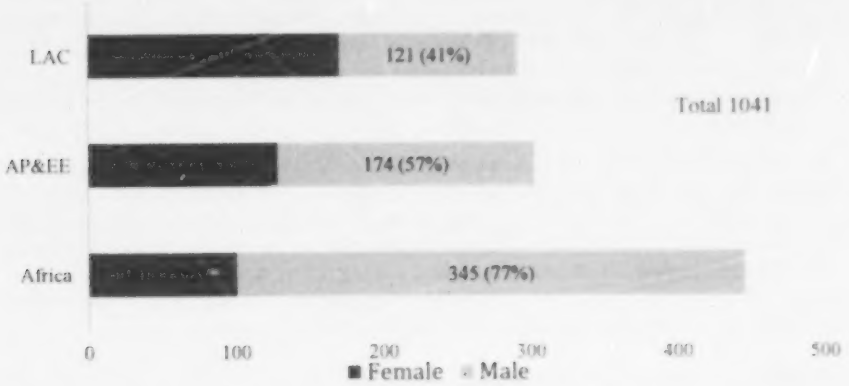


Abbreviations: LAC = Latin American and Caribbean region, AP&EE = Asia-Pacific and Eastern European region, BUR = biennial update report, GHG = greenhouse gas.

[27] These results are for workshops organized by the CGE.

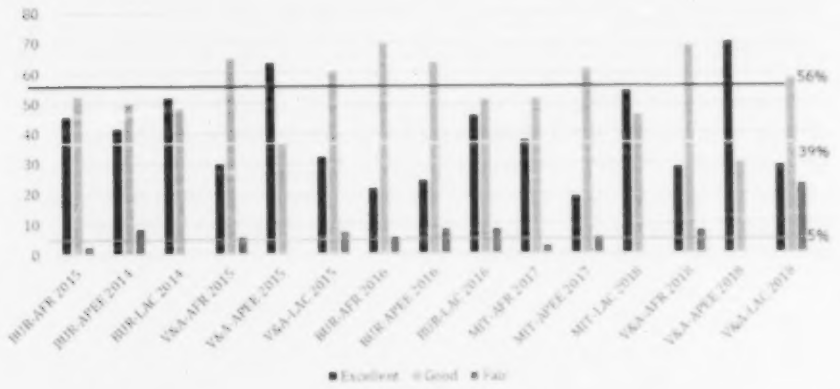
[28] See document FCCC/SBI/2016/16, paragraph 85.

Figure 2
Regional hands-on training workshops in 2014–2018: number of participants by region and gender



Abbreviations: AP&EE = Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions, LAC = Latin American and Caribbean region.

Figure 3
Participants' assessment of the quality of the regional hands-on training workshops in 2014–2018



Abbreviations: AFR = Africa, APEE = Asia-Pacific and Eastern European regions, BUR = biennial update report, LAC = Latin American and Caribbean region, MIT = mitigation assessment, V&A = vulnerability and adaptation assessment.

B. Support for the technical analysis of biennial update reports

1. Training materials

71. In accordance with decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(i), in 2014–2015 the CGE developed a training programme for the technical experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts, who, upon successful completion of the training, become eligible to be part of a TTE and undertake the technical analysis of BURs. The primary objective of the training programme is to ensure that the experts nominated on the UNFCCC roster of experts are fully conversant with the relevant reporting requirements for developing country

Parties and the modalities and procedures for the ICA process, including the technical analysis of BURs from developing country Parties.

72. Also in 2014 the CGE organized a workshop on the peer review of the materials for training TTEs as an opportunity for experts to review the draft training materials and provide feedback. A total of 49 experts from developed and developing country Parties attended, drawn from the UNFCCC roster of experts and former and current CGE members. The CGE took stock of the comments and suggestions received from the experts over the course of the workshop, which contributed to the finalization of the training programme.

73. Further, in 2017 the CGE developed a technical tool to facilitate developing country Parties' preparation for and participation in ICA.[29] The tool was developed taking into account experience, lessons learned and feedback from the first eight rounds of the technical analysis of BURs and the three workshops for the facilitative sharing of views. It provides information on the process-related aspects of ICA, identifies the key steps, documents and tools used in ICA, and outlines the roles and responsibilities of the various actors involved, including guidance to facilitate efficient participation.

2. Training programme for teams of technical experts

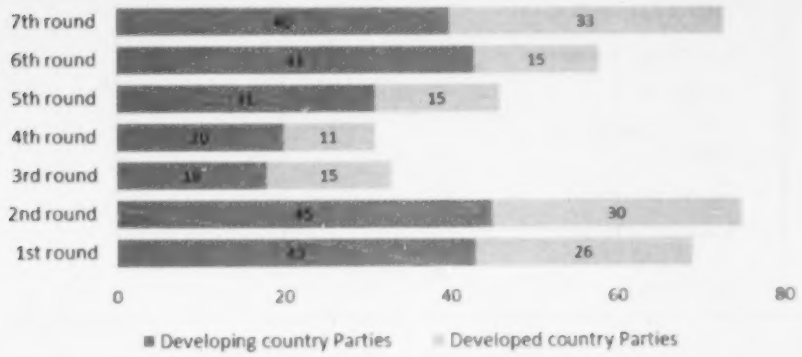
74. The CGE training programme for TTEs undertaking the technical analysis of BURs was rolled out in April 2015 and converted to a web-based self-learning training programme in June 2015, hosted on the UNFCCC Learning Management System. Since then the secretariat has organized eight rounds of training for experts nominated on the UNFCCC roster of experts. After a period of self-learning, proficiency assessments are offered. Upon successful completion of the course, experts are issued with a certificate and are qualified to be part of a TTE. During the seven rounds of training in 2015–2018,[30] a total of 385 experts, from developed and developing country Parties, passed one or more proficiency assessments. Figure 4 shows the number of experts who passed one or more proficiency assessments in each round. Considering the number who participated in more than one round of training (those not able to meet the threshold set for passing the proficiency assessment), the actual number of experts who passed one or more proficiency assessments is 316. A total of 236 experts became qualified to be part of a TTE.

75. In 2018 four modules of cluster 1 of the TTE training materials, titled, "Provisions on reporting information in the BURs and conducting technical analysis of BURs under the ICA process", were updated to include experience, lessons learned and observations from the implementation of the ICA process so far.

[29] Available at https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-on-national-communications-from-parties-not-included-in-annex-i-to-the/cge-training-materials/international-consultation-and-analysis-for-non-annex-i-parties.

[30] The eighth round of training is under way and will be completed by October 2018.

Figure 4
Training for experts nominated on the UNFCCC roster of experts in 2015–2018: number of experts who passed one or more proficiency assessments in each round



3. Online training resources

76. On the basis of the CGE training materials, the secretariat developed an e-learning programme on the preparation of NCs from developing country Parties. The e-learning courses were released in March 2015 and are accessible through open and free registration on the UNFCCC Learning Management System. The CGE updated the look and feel of the e-learning courses in 2016. The current e-learning programme contains courses on introduction and overview, national GHG inventories, mitigation assessment, vulnerability and adaptation and cross-cutting issues, with each course comprising a range of lessons (see table 1). A total of 684 participants had registered for the programme as at August 2018.

Table 1
Consultative Group of Experts e-learning courses and lessons therein

Introduction and overview	*National greenhouse gas inventories*	*Vulnerability and adaptation assessment*	*Mitigation assessment*	*Cross-cutting issues*
Introduction	Background on national greenhouse gas inventories	Overview of vulnerability and adaptation assessment	Mitigation in the context of national communications	Other information considered relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention
Overview of the UNFCCC reporting requirements for non-Annex I Parties	Building sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems	Socioeconomic scenarios	Mitigation assessment: concepts, structure and steps	Institutional arrangements
	Methodological and data choices	Climate change scenarios	Mitigation options, issues and barriers by sector	
	Performing key category analysis	Water resources	Mitigation analysis methods and tools	
	Addressing data gaps	Human health	Reporting on mitigation in national communications	
	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change emission factor database	Coastal resources		

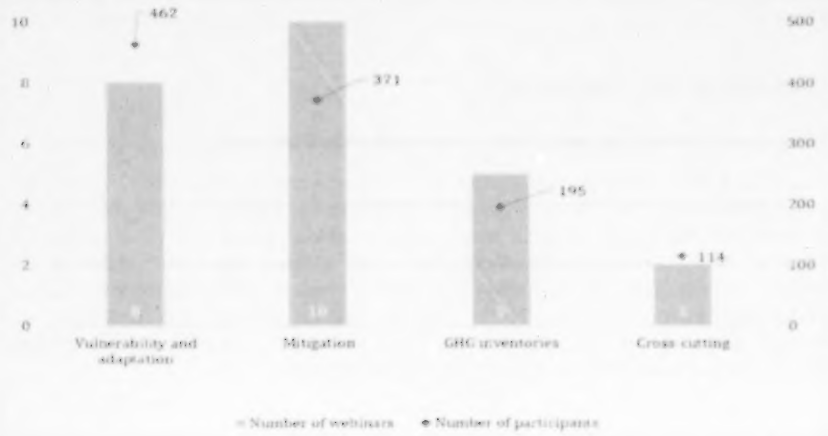
Introduction and overview	*National greenhouse gas inventories*	*Vulnerability and adaptation assessment*	*Mitigation assessment*	*Cross-cutting issues*
	Quality assurance/quality control and verification	Agriculture		
	Uncertainty assessment			
	Energy sector			
	Industrial processes sector			
	Agricultural sector			
	Land use, land-use change and forestry			
	Waste sector			

77. With a view to enhancing interaction between CGE members and the constituencies under the Convention as part of its communication and outreach efforts, the CGE, with the assistance of the secretariat, created a web-based platform called the e-Network. The e-Network provides implementation updates and news, and allows users to access technical resources relevant to the preparation of NCs and BURs, search a database of experts in the areas of NCs and BURs, and interact with the CGE and other experts through online discussion forums. Since the launch of the e-Network in 2015, the CGE has continued to update the information on the site on a regular basis in close collaboration with UNDP, UNEP and the IPCC.

78. The CGE has conducted webinars aimed at building the momentum of its capacity-building initiatives and addressing specific issues related to the process and preparation of NCs and BURs. The webinars provide a platform for the CGE to reach out to a wider audience of national experts and practitioners and to assist them in gaining targeted knowledge in thematic areas. The CGE has collaborated with external experts and international organizations, including the GSP, the IPCC, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, FAO and WHO, in conducting webinars. In 2015–2018 the CGE conducted 25 webinars, enabling a total of 1,142 participants, including national government representatives, researchers and technical specialists, to learn from and engage with experts remotely. Figure 5 presents the number of webinars and participants by thematic focus in 2015–2018.

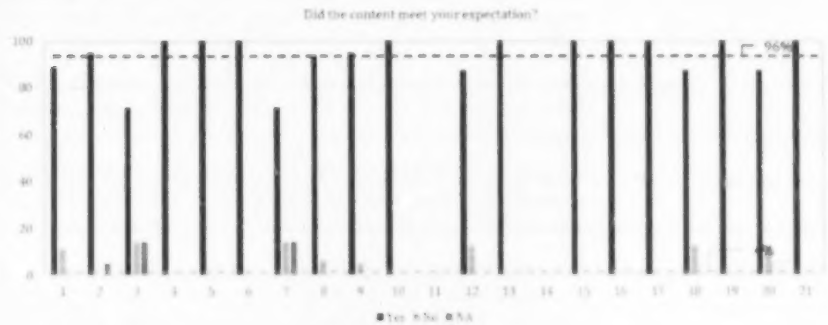
79. The CGE has conducted post-webinar surveys since 2016. According to the survey results on the 21 webinars conducted between 2016 and 2018, 96 per cent of the surveyed participants indicated that the content of the webinars met their expectations, as shown in figure 6.

Figure 5
Number of Consultative Group of Experts webinars and participants by theme in 2015–2018



Abbreviation: GHG = greenhouse gas.

Figure 6
Participants' assessment of the quality of the Consultative Group of Experts webinars in 2016–2018



Note: No feedback was received on webinars 11 and 14 through the surveys.

4. Other activities

80. In response to decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(d), the CGE prepared an analytical paper[31] that provides recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties, as well as suggestions aimed at clarifying the guidelines in order to facilitate reporting by developing country Parties. In preparing the paper the CGE took into consideration the inputs provided by developing country Parties through a survey conducted between September 2015 and January 2016 on challenges faced in using, and possible improvements to, the existing guidelines, and information contained in relevant reports prepared since 2011, including workshop reports and other technical reports.

81. In line with decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(h), the CGE provided guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of TTEs. In 2016 the CGE established a task force, consisting of 10 CGE

[31] FCCC/SBI/2016/17.

members, to undertake an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced in composing TTEs to undertake technical analyses of BURs and to identify and recommend solutions to respond to or mitigate the constraints and challenges identified. In 2017 the task force prepared a technical report[32] containing its analysis, findings and recommendations on composing TTEs.

C. Cooperation and collaboration

1. Other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention

82. The CGE notes that its participation in the activities of other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention is important in helping to link their various activities that are cross-cutting in nature and to explore opportunities for conducting activities jointly and/or complementing each other's work, especially related to the capacity-building of developing country Parties. As a result, the CGE has made continuous collaboration efforts (see table 2). In addition, through its webinars, workshops and members, the CGE has explored opportunities to make use of and disseminate relevant information developed by the various other constituted bodies.

Table 2
Collaboration of the Consultative Group of Experts with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention in 2014–2018

Entity	*Key collaborative activities*
Adaptation Committee (AC)	A member of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention (CGE) participated in a workshop on experience, good practices, lessons learned, gaps and needs in the process to formulate and implement national adaptation plans (NAPs), organized by the AC in collaboration with the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2015
	The CGE collaborated extensively with the AC in updating the CGE training materials on vulnerability and adaptation assessment over the course of 2015
	AC members participated in CGE webinars on vulnerability and adaptation assessment and coastal resources as resource persons in 2016 and 2017
Durban Forum on capacity-building	CGE members participated in the meetings of the Durban Forum on capacity-building in 2014–2016, presenting the work of the CGE on providing technical assistance to developing country Parties and concrete and innovative solutions tailored to enhancing developing country Parties' capacities
Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts	Two CGE members served on the interim Executive Committee in 2014, providing information on the activities of the CGE relating to vulnerability and adaptation assessment
Least Developed Countries Expert Group	CGE members participated in the NAP Expos organized by the Least Developed Countries Expert Group in 2014 and 2015
Paris Committee on Capacity-Building (PCCB)	The CGE participated in the 1st and 2nd meetings of the PCCB as an observer in 2017 and 2018, presenting its capacity-building activities
	The CGE made a submission highlighting the need for synergy and collaboration with the PCCB and agreed to continue providing input to the PCCB on capacity-building support through the web-based capacity-building portal

[32] FCCC/SBI/2017/12.

Entity	*Key collaborative activities*
Standing Committee on Finance (SCF)	The SCF shared its most recently approved workplan with the CGE, which shared its work programme and workplan with the SCF in response

83. In addition, the CGE has participated in other relevant mandated activities under the Convention, including the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on their proposed forest reference emission levels or forest reference levels. The CGE was invited[33] to nominate one of its experts from a developing country Party with relevant expertise to participate in the technical assessment as an observer, who did so in the first session of the technical assessment in 2014.

2. Intergovernmental organizations

84. In order to implement its work programme, the CGE worked closely with a number of international organizations in implementing its hands-on training workshops, webinars and the e-Network. The engagement helped the CGE to better coordinate and collaborate on several activities by capitalizing on available technical resources and networks. Further, it helped to disseminate the tools and training materials developed by the CGE and to reach out to a broader audience at the national level.

85. The CGE continued its cooperation and collaboration with the GSP in addressing the capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties for the process and preparation of their NCs and BURs. The CGE members from UNDP and UNEP regularly updated the CGE at its meetings on the implementation of the GSP with a view to facilitating the provision of targeted financial and technical support to developing country Parties. The GSP provided useful input to the work of the CGE, including contributing resource persons to regional hands-on training workshops and webinars, and collaborating on the organization of training workshops,[34] the translation of training materials, the dissemination of existing CGE training materials at the subregional and national level, and outreach activities on the preparation of NCs and BURs.

86. The GSP assisted the CGE in compiling information on existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs, and steps for integrating climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions.

87. Since 2016 the CGE has collaborated with the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories in organizing the regional hands-on training workshops on sustainable national GHG inventory management systems and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines (see para. 15 above). The CGE has also collaborated with the Technical Support Unit of the IPCC Task Force on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories on preparing training materials covering all sectors of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.[35] In 2018, experts of the IPCC Working Group II, through the Technical Support Unit, provided technical expertise for the CGE workshop on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in NCs.

88. FAO, UNDP and WHO provided technical resource persons, in their respective areas of expertise, for the CGE workshop on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in NCs. In addition, FAO and WHO also collaborated with the CGE on its webinars. Other organizations that provided technical expertise included the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and GIZ.

[33] Decision 13/CP.19, annex, paragraph 9.

[34] For example, the CGE collaborated with the GSP to organize two regional hands-on training workshops in 2017. For further details, see document FCCC/SBI/2017/15.

[35] Available at https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/bodies/constituted-bodies/consultative-group-of-experts-on-national-communications-from-parties-not-included-in-annex-i-to-the-cge-training-materials/cge-training-materials-for-the-preparation-of-national-communications-from-non.

3. International organizations

89. In 2018 the CGE engaged with a number of international organizations for its hands-on training workshops and webinars. It engaged the Hungarian National Adaptation Center, the Korea Adaptation Center for Climate Change and Winrock International for its webinars, and the Alliance for Global Water Adaptation and Deltares provided resource persons for the CGE workshop on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in NCs.

90. The CGE collaborated with GIZ for a webinar, and in 2017 GIZ provided a resource person for the regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in NCs and BURs.

D. Communications and outreach

91. The CGE, with the support of the secretariat, has conducted various communication and outreach activities in order to reach interested stakeholders. The CGE has organized twice a year, on the margins of the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, a side event highlighting the activities of the CGE and providing opportunities for Parties to showcase how the technical support of the CGE has enabled them to prepare their NCs and BURs. In addition, the CGE prepared in 2016 and updated in 2018 a booklet highlighting its achievements. Furthermore, through the UNFCCC social media, the technical materials developed by the CGE have been shared extensively. As part of the relaunch of the UNFCCC website, the CGE web pages were updated accordingly.

V. Conclusions

92. Overall the CGE has successfully implemented the activities outlined in its work programme for 2014–2018, which has resulted in concrete outputs, including the following:

(a) Developing and disseminating a comprehensive set of training materials covering substantive areas of NCs and BURs;

(b) Training 1,041 national experts through 23 regional hands-on training and 25 webinars covering 1,142 experts on different themes of NC and BURs;

(c) Developing a training programme and training 385 experts on the UNFCCC roster of experts on the technical analysis of BURs;

(d) Developing and disseminating online training resources and other technical guidance tools, such as an e-learning programme on NCs and a technical tool to help Parties prepare for and participate in the ICA process;

(e) Undertaking targeted analytical work, such as compiling and synthesizing problems, constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the preparation of NCs and BURs,[16] and formulating recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the UNFCCC guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties.[17]

93. Recognizing that there is limited awareness of the mandate and activities of the CGE[18] among the stakeholders who are actively engaged in providing support to developing country Parties in the area of MRV, including bilateral and multilateral entities, the CGE also focused on strengthening cooperation and collaboration with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention, as well as international organizations.

94. Although it has made a substantial contribution in providing technical assistance for improving the process and preparation of NCs and BURs by developing country Parties, the CGE encountered some constraints that impeded the efficiency and effectiveness of the

[16] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/16.
[17] See document FCCC/SBI/2016/17.
[18] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/15.

implementation of its mandated activities, such as a lack of stable and predictable financial resources to support its work, which added an element of uncertainty to the implementation of its work programme.[39] For instance, in 2017, the CGE faced financial resource constraints and as a result was not in a position to undertake some key planned activities, including the regional hands-on training workshop for the Latin American and Caribbean region on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in NCs and BURs.[40]

95. Over the period of five years, the CGE implemented a number of activities geared towards providing technical assistance to non-Annex I Parties on the preparation of NCs and BURs. With a view to understanding the impacts of those activities, the CGE assessed the effects of its implemented activities and the unique role it played.[41] It noted that the impacts are not easy to measure, particularly where Parties have not yet submitted their first BURs. The CGE also observed that the time and effort needed to prepare the second BUR is less arduous than the first one because Parties were able to make use of and build on the processes and institutional arrangements put in place for the preparation of their first BUR.

96. Drawing on the insights and experience gained from implementing its work programme, the CGE identified priority areas that could be useful in further enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of its provision of technical assistance to developing country Parties:[42]

(a) Enhancing efforts to collaborate with interested partners, with the assistance of the secretariat;

(b) Playing a catalytic role in promoting and attracting intervention from interested partners by providing strategic guidance and direction to respond to the needs of developing country Parties for their national reporting;

(c) Strengthening communication and outreach activities so that stakeholders have a better understanding of the training products and opportunities available through the CGE;

(d) Creating formal regional networks of experts and practitioners involved in the process and preparation of NCs and BURs to serve as a vehicle for disseminating relevant information from the CGE to stakeholders;

(e) Facilitating, through regional forums or platforms, regional support and cooperation that aim to increase the regional capacity, and promoting sustainability of the institutional arrangements to prepare and submit NCs and BURs.

97. The CGE noted that there is a continued need and demand to enhance the national capacities of developing country Parties to prepare their NCs and BURs, with a focus on putting in place sustainable institutional arrangements. Further, with the adoption and entry into force of the Paris Agreement, the enhanced transparency framework established under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement will necessitate additional capacity-building support for some developing country Parties.

98. Finally, the CGE identified a list of key processes and arrangements that may be impacted by the outcome of the review by the SBI, upon request of the COP,[43] of the terms of reference of the CGE. These include the following:

(a) Implementation of decision 20/CP.19. Through this decision, the COP (1) requests the CGE to develop and organize appropriate training programmes for experts nominated to the UNFCCC roster of experts on the technical analysis of BURs; (2) mandates the CGE to guide the secretariat in selecting the members of the TTE and provide periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria contained in

[39] See document FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.15.

[40] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/15.

[41] See http://www.unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/cge/items/2608.php.

[42] See document FCCC/SBI/2017/19, paragraph 23.

[43] Decision 20/CP.22.

paragraphs 3 to 5 of the annex to the same decision and (3) requires the CGE to be part of a TTE that shall include, as a high priority and to the extent available, at least one CGE member and up to one third of the TTE;

(b) Technical advice and support to developing countries for the implementation of decision 17/CP.8 and its annex containing the guidelines for the preparation of NCs from non-Annex I Parties; decision 2/CP.17, paragraphs 39–44; and annex III containing the UNFCCC biennial update reporting guidelines for non-Annex I Parties;

(c) Engagement with the GSP and other partners with whom the CGE has been working closely.

99. The CGE thanked the Annex I Parties[44] and multilateral agencies[45] that provided financial resources for the successful implementation of the planned activities for its work programme for 2014–2018.

[44] Belgium, Canada, European Union, and Japan

[45] UNDP

Annex I

Implementation of the CGE work programme for 2014–2018

Output products	*Activities*	*Implementation timeline*				
		2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(a): "Identify and provide technical assistance regarding problems and constraints that have affected the process of and the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports"						
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(g): "Provide information and technical advice based on, where possible, lessons learned and best practices in the process of and preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by non-Annex I Parties"						
Technical report synthesizing the problems and constraints, lessons learned and best practices	1. Compilation of information on constraints, problems, lessons learned and best practices reported in:					
	1.1. Past CGE, complemented with additional CGE questions	x			x	
	1.2. NCs	x			x	
	1.3. BURs				x	
	1.4. Reports and other publications by the CGE, as well as other relevant institutions and agencies such as WRI, UNEP, UNDP, etc.	x			x	
	2. Synthesis of the compiled information	x			x	
	3. Provision of technical advice and support with respect to paragraph 2(g)	x			x	
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(b): "Provide technical assistance and support to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the process of and preparation of their national communications and biennial update reports"						
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(c): "Provide technical advice to non-Annex I Parties to facilitate the development and long-term sustainability of processes of the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports"						

Output products	*Activities*	*Implementation timeline*				
		2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
I. BUR training materials in other official United Nations languages	1. Translation of CGE BUR training materials into other United Nations languages	x				
II. Updated CGE training materials	2. Update of CGE training materials to take into account the latest science and developments under the Convention		x			x
III. E-learning courses	3. Development, operation and maintenance of e-learning course	x	x	x	x	x
IV. A pool of national experts trained on the preparation of BURs and NCs	4. Conduct regional hands-on training workshop on the preparation of BURs					
V. Technical reports on the hands-on training workshops	4.1. Latin America and the Caribbean	x			x	
	4.2. Africa	x		x		
	4.3. Asia and the Pacific	x		x		
	5. Conduct regional hands-on training workshop on vulnerability and adaptation assessment					
	5.1. Latin America and the Caribbean		x			x
	5.2. Africa		x			x
	5.3. Asia and the Pacific		x			x
	6. Conduct regional hands-on training workshop on national greenhouse gas inventories[a]					
	6.1. Latin America and the Caribbean			x	x	
	6.2. Africa			x	x	x
	6.3. Asia and the Pacific			x		x
	7. Conduct regional hands-on training workshop on mitigation assessment					
	7.1. Latin America and the Caribbean				x	
	7.2. Africa				x	
	7.3. Asia and the Pacific				x	
	8. Conduct webinars addressing targeted themes		x	x	x	x

Output products	Activities	Implementation timeline				
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(d): "Provide recommendations, as appropriate, on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports"						
A paper on recommendations on possible elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of NCs and BURs	1. Revisit CGE recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of NCs			x		
	2. CGE recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of BURs[a]					
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(e): "Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, and information on existing activities and programmes, including bilateral, regional and multilateral sources of financial and technical assistance, to facilitate and support the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports"						
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(f): "Provide technical advice and support to Parties, upon request, on the provision of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions"						
I. Compendium of information on existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs	1. Compilation of information on existing activities and programmes to facilitate and support the preparation of NCs and BURs in collaboration with the UNDP and UNEP GSP	x				
II. Compendium of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions	2. Compilation of information on steps to integrate climate change considerations into relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions in collaboration with the UNDP and UNEP GSP	x				x
	3. Update of information on 1 and 2 above in collaboration with the UNDP and UNEP GSP					x
	4. Technical advice and support with respect to paragraph 2(e) and (f)	x	x	x	x	x
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(i): "Develop and organize ... appropriate training programmes for nominated technical experts ... based on the most updated training materials"						

Output/products	*Activities*	*Implementation timeline*				
		2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
I. UNFCCC training programme for the team of technical experts II. Pool of experts nominated to the roster of experts trained and certified as the technical experts for conducting the technical analysis of BURs	1. Development of the team of technical experts training programme	x				
	2. Conversion of the team of technical experts training programme into a web-based training programme		x			
	3. Certification workshop/examination for the technical experts	x	x	x	x	x
	4. Revision of the training programme		x			x
Decision 19/CP.19, annex, paragraph 2(h): "Provide guidance and periodic advice to the secretariat to assist it in fulfilling the selection criteria for the composition of the team of technical experts"						
Periodic guidance and advice to the secretariat on the selection of the team of technical experts, as appropriate	Consideration of periodic technical report on the selection of the team of technical experts, as appropriate		x	x	x	x
Other elements of the work programme						
I. Participation in the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels	1. Participate in the technical assessment of submissions from Parties on proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels	x	x	x	x	x
II. A training module under the team of technical experts training programme covering the technical analysis of data and information used by Parties in the estimation of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest area changes	2. Identify elements for the team of technical experts training programme covering aspects relating to the technical analysis of data and information used and reported in BURs by Parties in the estimation of anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest area changes	x				

Output products	*Activities*	*Implementation timeline*				
		2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
III. Representation in the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism	1. Participation in the work of the Executive Committee of the Warsaw International Mechanism	x				
	2. Stocktaking of activities undertaken by the CGE on vulnerability and adaptation	x				
IV. Long-term strategy addressing capacity-building needs of non-Annex I Parties in fulfilling their reporting requirements, including the long-term management plan of the CGE and provision of technical assistance	1. Develop long-term strategy, feedback and revision (including from the Subsidiary Body for Implementation)	x				
	2. Implement relevant elements of the long-term strategy		x	x	x	x
	3. Review and revise, as appropriate, the long-term strategy			x		
	4. Explore a potential additional workshop at the subregional/national level, subject to availability of resources	x	x	x	x	x
V. Updated five-year work programme and annual workplan	Review and revise the five-year work programme, including development of a specific work programme for the year		x	x	x	x
VI. Progress reports on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts, and communication and outreach on its activities	1. Meetings of the Consultative Group of Experts	x	x	x	x	x
	2. Side events of the Consultative Group of Experts	x	x	x	x	x
VII. Mapping of areas of collaboration and cooperation with other expert bodies and constituted bodies under the Convention	Identify possibilities for and develop collaboration and cooperation with other expert groups and constituted bodies under the Convention	x	x	x	x	x
VIII. Mapping of areas of collaboration and cooperation with other global initiatives, intergovernmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders	Identify possibilities for and develop collaboration and cooperation with key global initiatives, and international non-governmental organizations, the research community and academia involved in climate change activities	x	x	x	x	x

Output/products	*Activities*	*Implementation timeline*				
		2014	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018*
IX. List of relevant channels available to enhance communication and outreach X. Focused/targets communication products, such as brochure, pamphlets XI. Online resource platform XII. Enhanced outreach to wider group of stakeholder	1. Develop communication products targeting experts and global networks in non-Annex I Parties to disseminate 'quick-win' ideas and information on NCs and BURs, targeting national experts					
	2. Identify existing mechanisms and networks whereby non-Annex I Parties collaborate for the development of their NCs and assess their potential as a tool to enhance communication and outreach between the CGE and its stakeholders			x	x	x
	3. Provide and use an existing web-based platform for accessing information and guidance on the preparation of NCs and BURs			x	x	x
	4. Develop/update/maintain a web platform for CGE members to collaborate between sessions and meetings		x	x	x	x
	5. Create a formal network of experts and practitioners involved in the process of and preparation of NCs and BURs, by region to serve as a vehicle for the dissemination of relevant information from the CGE to stakeholders			x	x	x
	6. Promote the CGE long-term strategy and annual workplan to potential donors		x	x	x	x
	7. Integration of the gender action plan					x

Abbreviations: BURs = biennial update reports, CGE = Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention, Global Support Programme = Global Support Programme for Preparation of National Communications and Biennial Update Reports by non-Annex I Parties, IPCC = Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, NCs = national communications, SBI = Subsidiary Body for Implementation, UNDP = United Nations Development Programme, UNEP = United Nations Environment Programme, Warsaw International Mechanism = Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, WRI = World Resources Institute.

[a] The CGE has participated as resource person at the workshop organized by the secretariat, in collaboration with the IPCC, on the building of sustainable national greenhouse gas inventory management systems and the use of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines.

[b] The CGE decided not undertake this activity owing to the ongoing discussions in the negotiations of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement.

Annex II

Reports prepared by the Consultative Group of Experts since 2014

[English only]

Title	*Document symbol*
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2014/17
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the regional training workshops on the preparation of biennial update reports from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2014/18
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the workshop on the peer review of the materials for the training of the team of technical experts	FCCC/SBI/2014/19
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: long-term strategy of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.15
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: technical report on problems and constraints, as well as lessons learned and best practices, in the process of and the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports by Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2014/INF.16
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the training workshop for the African region on the preparation of biennial update reports	FCCC/SBI/2015/17
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2015/18
Progress report on the work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention: report on the regional training workshops on vulnerability and adaptation assessment	FCCC/SBI/2015/20
Regional training workshops on the preparation of biennial update reports from non-Annex I Parties	FCCC/SBI/2016/15

Title	*Document symbol*
Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2016/16
Recommendations on elements to be considered in a future revision of the guidelines for the preparation of national communications from non-Annex I Parties	FCCC/SBI/2016/17
Technical report by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on the constraints in and recommendations for composing teams of technical experts	FCCC/SBI/2017/12
Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2017/15
Updated technical report by the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention on problems, constraints, lessons learned and best practices in the preparation of national communications and biennial update reports	FCCC/SBI/2017/16
Regional hands-on training workshops on the preparation and reporting of mitigation actions in national communications and biennial update reports	FCCC/SBI/2017/17
Regional hands-on training workshop on the preparation and reporting of information on mitigation actions in national communications and biennial update reports	FCCC/SBI/2018/14
Progress of work of the Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Parties not included in Annex I to the Convention	FCCC/SBI/2018/20
Regional hands-on training workshops on identifying adaptation actions and reporting them in national communications	FCCC/SBI/2018/21